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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Jean-Marie Vau, et al

METHOD OF DISPLAYING AN IMAGE CAPTURED BY A DIGITAL CAMERA

Serial No. 10/542,266

Filed 20 December 2003

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA. 22313-1450

Group Art Unit: 2628

Examiner:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited today with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA

(9) OUN
Robin DePoint

Feb. 12, 200

Sir:

REQUEST FOR CORRECTION TO PATENT APPLICATION PUBLICATION

A mistake has been discovered in the above-captioned Publication. The title is incorrect on the cover page and also on page 1 (copies attached). The correct title is on page 1 of the original application and also on page 1 of the Declaration and Power of Attorney submitted September 7, 2006 (copies attached).

Therefore, we are requesting a correction to the patent application Publication due to a United States Patent and Trademark Office error.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees in connection with this communication to Eastman Kodak Company Deposit Account No. 05-0225. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Attorney for Applicants

Registration No. 45,287

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Enclosures

If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.

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METHOD OF DISPLAYING AN IMAGE CAPTURED BY A DIGITAL CAMERA.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a method of displaying a digital image, and in particular an image captured by a digital still camera. The method of display can be implemented for all types of display screens, but especially low-resolution display screens, i.e. less than the resolution of the camera, and at least less than that of the image to be displayed.

Portable communication equipment, such as mobile phones, provided with an integral image sensor, can in particular benefit from the invention. Indeed, these devices usually have a small display screen, unable to reproduce the details of a captured image.

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

As mentioned above, mobile phones provided with a camera, usually only provide modest display options. This is the same for more sophisticated digital cameras that despite a high quality lens and high-resolution sensor, are only equipped with a basic monitoring screen.

The monitoring screen, however it is, can have several functions. One of these functions can be that of a viewfinder. Then it is used to check the framing of the image to be captured. This first function can be adapted to a relatively restricted screen resolution. Another function is to enable the user to select the destination of the captured images. The destination can be saving to memory, sending the image to a remote electronic album, ordering printed proofs of the image, or, more simply, deleting the image.

Sending the image to a remote electronic album, which acts as a memory, and the ordering of the printing of photographic proofs constitute an easy and increasingly widespread solution for processing the images captured by digital cameras. Indeed printing an image on paper enables it to be reproduced with very high quality, and good resolution.

Telephones integrating an image sensor, and some digital cameras, combined with transmission means, enable easy sending to a photographic service

Combined Declaration For Patent Application and Power of Attorney						ATTORNEY DOCKET 85308WRZ			
As below named inventor, I hereby declare that:							1 0000	,,,,,,	
My residence, post office address	and citizenship ar	e as stated below	next to	my name,					
I believe I am the original, first	and sole inventor	(if only one nam	ne is lis	ted below) or an original,	first and join	nt invent	tor (if plura	l names	are listed
below) of the subject matter which	h is claimed and fo	or which a patent	is.sough	t on the invention entitled	:				
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(19) United States

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(54) METHOD OF DISPLAYING AN IMAGE CAPTURED BY A DIGITAL

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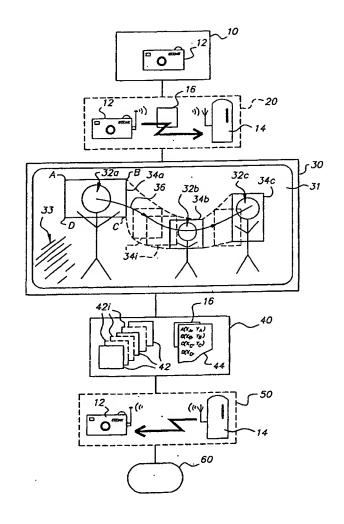
(2006.01)

(52) U.S. Cl.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Method of display of at least one digital image, called initial image, on a monitoring screen having a resolution less than the resolution of the initial image, the method comprising the following steps: a) the automatic identification in the image of at least one zone-of-interest (32a, 32b and 32c), b) for each zone-of-interest identified, the automatic selection of an image portion (34a, 34b and 34c) containing the zone-of-interest, c) the formation of a sequence of images to be displayed comprising selected image portions, d) the command of a full screen display of the images of the sequence. Application to mobile phones or any other portable equipment provided with a camera sensor.



METHOD OF DISPLAYING AN IMAGE CAPTURED BY A DIGITAL

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates to a method of displaying a digital image, and in particular an image captured by a digital still camera. The method of display can be implemented for all types of display screens, but especially low-resolution display screens, i.e. less than the resolution of the camera, and at least less than that of the image to be displayed.

[0002] Portable communication equipment, such as mobile phones, provided with an integral image sensor, can in particular benefit from the invention. Indeed, these devices usually have a small display screen, unable to reproduce the details of a captured image.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] As mentioned above, mobile phones provided with a camera, usually only provide modest display options. This is the same for more sophisticated digital cameras that despite a high quality lens and high-resolution sensor, are only equipped with a basic monitoring screen.

[0004] The monitoring screen, however it is, can have several functions. One of these functions can be that of a viewfinder. Then it is used to check the framing of the image to be captured. This first function can be adapted to a relatively restricted screen resolution. Another function is to enable the user to select the destination of the captured images. The destination can be saving to memory, sending the image to a remote electronic album, ordering printed proofs of the image, or, more simply, deleting the image.

[0005] Sending the image to a remote electronic album, which acts as a memory, and the ordering of the printing of photographic proofs constitute an easy and increasingly widespread solution for processing the images captured by digital cameras. Indeed printing an image on paper enables it to be reproduced with very high quality, and good resolution.

[0006] Telephones integrating an image sensor, and some digital cameras, combined with transmission means, enable easy sending to a photographic service provider of captured image data This data transmission can prevent overloading of the camera's memory.

[0007] As an alternative, the camera's memory can also be freed by simply deleting image data, without their transmission. The decision to transmit or not an image for printing, or saving in a remote album, usually takes place just after the user has captured the image.

[0008] To make the choice between image conservation, image printing, and its deletion, the user often only has the monitoring screen integrated with the camera.

[0009] When the monitoring screen has a low resolution, i.e. less than that of the images capable of being captured by the sensor, it does not enable accurate representation of the quality of a printed photographic proof likely to be obtained. The proof quality finally obtained is not related to that of the monitoring screen but mainly to the resolution of the image capture sensor and to that of the image printing or reproduction means used to produce the proofs. The resolution of

these means is very much better than that of standard monitoring screens. This can result in situations where the user decides to delete an image by reckoning that its quality or its resolution is insufficient, whereas the final proof, obtained after printing would actually be perfectly acceptable. Such situations can in particular arise when the captured image contains one or more faces of photographed people, and the framing of the faces is not close up. In this case, each face, taken individually, only occupies on the monitoring screen a limited number of pixels. The displayed image does not necessarily represent the user's photographic intention and does not show the faces satisfactorily. This difficulty arises whenever an image detail is represented with insufficient accuracy to objectively estimate the advantage of printing the image or not, of keeping it or not.

[0010] Thus the user rejects images that they could have kept and had printed.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0011] The purpose of the invention is to propose a solution to the unfortunate situation described above.

[0012] In particular the purpose of the invention is to propose a method of display that renders with sufficient accuracy the details of an image to enable a user to assess the quality of an image with good objectivity, and hence its destination.

[0013] It is also a purpose to propose a method of display that is compatible with summary screens such as monitoring screens or screens integrated with telephones or other portable devices.

[0014] To achieve these aims, the purpose of the invention is more precisely a method of display of at least one digital image, called "initial image", on a monitoring screen having a resolution less than a resolution of the initial image, the method comprising the following steps:

- [0015] a) the automatic identification in the initial image of at least one zone-of-interest,
- [0016] b) for each zone-of-interest identified, the automatic selection of an image portion containing the zone-of-interest,
- [0017] c) the formation of a sequence of images to be displayed comprising selected image portions,
- [0018] d) the command of an enlarged display of the images of the sequence.

[0019] The initial image can be captured by a digital camera having a sensor capable of supplying images with a resolution greater than that of the monitoring screen fitted to the camera.

[0020] The enlarged display of the images of the sequence, i.e. selected image portions, enables better rendering of their details. The image portions can in particular be displayed full screen. In this case, the selected portions of the initial image are enlarged to occupy on screen the same area that the entire image would occupy. Enlargement involves no deterioration of the quality of the image, or image portions, as soon as the initial image is captured with a sensor whose resolution is greater than that of the monitoring screen used for display.